



MEPI supports Injaz El Djazair to “Empower a New Generation”



Students from the University of Algiers attending the “Steer Your Career Program” of the MEPI-funded Injaz El Djazair project

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MEPI organizes a mentoring session for young entrepreneurs



MEPI Algiers hosted an entrepreneurship mentoring forum on June 15 that provided youth the opportunity to hear inspiring, real-life success stories and experiences from influential Algerian entrepreneurs, as well as receive advice on how to transform an innovative idea into a start-up, and then build it into a success business. Panelists also answered audience questions.

Panelists (left to right): Yacine Rahmoun, Nacéra Haddad, Slim Othmani, Imane Sefouane

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MEPI Forum: “Entrepreneurship: From Business idea, to Start-up, to Success”



priority for his Administration’s global entrepreneurship programs. The panelists featured M. Slim Othmani, Chairman of NCA Rouiba and President of the Algerian think-tank CARE, Ms. Nacéra Haddad, Vice-President of the FCE and founder of the consulting firm Investissement Conseil Synergie (Incosyn), M. Yacine Rahmoun, Operations Director for CBS-Xerox and President of Casbah Business Angels, and Ms. Iman Sefouane, founder of Inopre-

neurs and teacher at HEC School.

On Monday, June 15, MEPI Algiers organized a forum titled: “Entrepreneurship: From Business idea, to Star-up, to Success.” Ambassador Polaschik opened the event and asserted the importance of transforming the pioneering ideas of young Algerians into sustainable businesses that build jobs which will contribute to economic growth and diversification. She also announced that President Obama made investing in women and youth entrepreneurs the top

This event was an opportunity for our panelists to share their experiences to inspire the future generation of entrepreneurs. The debate ended with an exciting mentoring session where the audience benefited from the panelists’ recommendations on how to transform an innovative idea into a start-up, and then build it into a successful business.

“Since coming to Algeria just nine months ago, I have been amazed and inspired by the talented and ambitious youth I have met. Their creative and practical ideas demonstrate the strong entrepreneurial spirit and endless potential of Algerian youth and the Algerian economy.” - U.S. Ambassador Joan Polaschik

MEPI NGO Capacity Building Workshop

MEPI Algiers hosted an NGO capacity-building workshop on June 6 for NGOs at U.S. Embassy Algiers. The session provided 45 representatives from nascent associations, clubs, and non-profit organizations training on various topics such as teamwork, fundraising, proposal writing, branding, project design, and communication. The workshop content and sharing of best practices between participants aimed to help them develop better organization, communication, and financial skills to facilitate effective management and financial autonomy.

Individuals from Bejaia, Tizi Ouzou, Biskra, Skikda, Blida, Algiers, Aokas, Telemcen, and Sidi Belabass attended the training, representing the following organizations: Sidra, AISEC Benak, Association DEFI, Association Les Lumières, AAJCSPA, Youth Association El Bahia, Association pêche artisanale et environnement le Dauphin, Babel School, Bariq21, Eco-nature, L'association de Développement des Capacités des Jeunes, Mind Club, Projet Khotwa, Randonneurs de Béjaia, Rotaract, Algerian pharmaceutical students' association, Vision Jeunes.



Injaz El Djazair: Phase One : “Steer Your Career Program”



“The program was amazing. It's like a gate, we have gone through all the most important steps toward a successful professional career. I really appreciated the interactivity during the session. Thanks to the awesome mentors!”

- Walid Abismail , participant from (ESI)

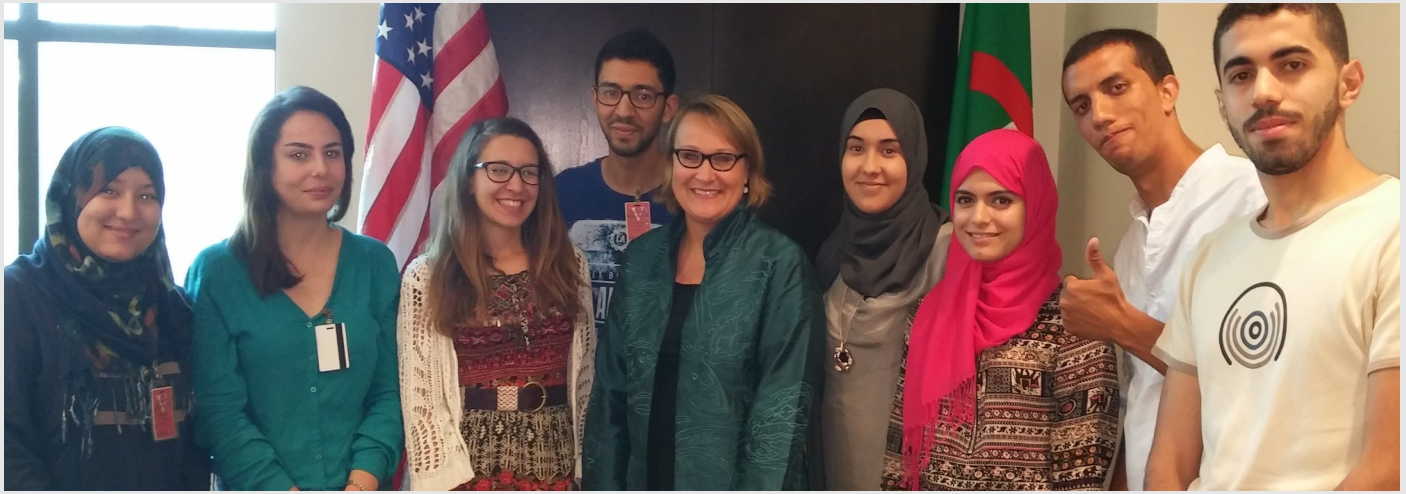
“Empower a New Generation” is a MEPI-funded project implemented by Injaz-El Djazair that provides Algerian students with the needed skills and expertise to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors. Injaz el Djazair launched the first program of this project in May 2015, entitled “Steer Your Career.” It was a practical and soft skills program which aimed enhance entrepreneurship initiatives among youth. Around 200 students from various Algiers universities and the business training center, Intuition, attended the workshop with 10 professional coaches from the private sector. Coaches came from large businesses like Xerox and La Farge.

This training covered different topics such as teamwork, problem solving, leadership, management, critical thinking, job proposal and resume writing, and analytical, presentation, and negotiation skills. The main objectives of this program was to familiarize future entrepreneurs with the concept of entrepreneurial thinking, provide them with the required tools to design appropriate job proposals and business plans, and assist them to efficiently communicate and interact in their work environment and with potential business partners.

As the training continues into Phase Two and Three of “Empower a New Generation” program, further support and guidance will be provided to the selected students. Phase two, “Job Shadow Day,” aims to coach young professionals on how to enter the job market.. The final part, “Start-up Program,” participants will create a business model with the skills they have learned. They will partner with a mentor and active business partner during this phase and participate in a business incubator.



ZOOM... Student Leaders 2015



Participants (left to right) with U.S. Ambassador Polaschik: Rahma Marref, Suheyr Bouthiba, Wardia Hamadi, Lyes Aissaoui, Ais Ikram, Insas Haoues, Ahmed Fekir, and Seddik Bouaissa

The Student Leaders program is an intensive six-week exchange program to the United States for approximately 120 undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa. The program runs from June 29 to August 8 and is designed to reinforce students' concepts of comparative analysis of leadership styles, conflict resolution and group dynamics, the role of civil society in the democratic process, and social and political change management. MEPI Algiers received over 160 applications this year. The following amazing eight students demonstrated extremely strong leadership potential and high commitment to civic engagement and thus were selected to participate to the Student Leaders Program 2015:

-Rahma Marref is an enthusiastic member of two charity associations: "Sourire à l'innocence" and "Chabab Al- Rahma." She is also an active community organizer having arranged seven community events in three different cities.

-Souheyr Bouthiba is involved in different community services and is a member of a volunteering organization called "Youth for Algeria." She also is a lead organizer of the annual "Health Awareness for Youth" campaign dealing with different taboo health issues in Algeria.

-Wardia Hamadi was manager of an innovative enterprise during the 2013 Indjaz El Djazair Startup Competition. She is also a member of Nomad Club which is a student organization dedicated to promoting the participation of students in the scientific, social, and cultural life.

-Lyes Aissaoui is 21 years old and studies hydraulic engineering at the National Polytechnic School from Algiers. Lyes is the editor in chief of a cultural magazine called "Bab edd'Art," and he has organized several charity events to collect money for cancer patients.

-Through her work with Amnesty International, Ais Ikram promotes students' rights within her university. Ikram created a blog to share these experiences and best practices with her peers and turned it into a platform where young people like her can join and discuss together their daily successes and challenges.

-Insaf Haoues was a delegate at the Algeria Model United Nations and is an active member of the charity organizations "Volunteers of Algeria" and "Batna bkhir."

-Ahmed Fekir is a member of the Muslim Scouts as well as AIESEC youth organization. Ahmed is also the head of his high school disabled athletics team and an active member of the disabled association called "Amel Association".

-Seddik Bouaissa is the co-founder of the "Young Arab Voices Club" which is a youth-led debate club present across the Arab region. He is also a delegate of the UAE ECO-SOC committee on green economy and sustainable development.